



# Public Notice

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**U.S. Army Corps  
Of Engineers  
Galveston District**

Permit Application No: \_\_\_\_\_ 23151  
Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_ 4 December 2003  
Comments Due: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 January 2004

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**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT  
AND  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE:** To inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

**AUTHORITY:** This application will be reviewed pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**APPLICANT:** Willacy County Navigation District  
400 West Hidalgo Avenue  
Raymondville, Texas 78580-3529

**AGENT:** Martin, Brown, & Perez Engineering and Surveying, Inc.  
221 East Filmore Avenue  
Harlingen, Texas 78550-7082  
Telephone: 956-428-4014  
POC: Jack L. Brown

**LOCATION:** The project is located at the intersection of State Highway 186 and Water Street in Port Mansfield, at the entrance of the Port Mansfield Harbor in Willacy County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map entitled: Port Mansfield, Texas. Approximate UTM Coordinates: Zone 14; Easting: 656950; Northing: 2938350.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant proposes to place fill to reclaim an eroded shoreline area and an existing boat ramp to create a subdivision, and to construct 13 covered boat slips along the entrance channel of the Port Mansfield Harbor. Approximately 1,000 feet of shoreline would be bulkheaded using concrete sheet pile. The sheet pile walls would be driven in first and then 7,000 cubic yards of fill material from upland sites placed behind the walls as backfill. Approximately 0.207 acre of area would be filled below the mean high tide (MHT) to fill in the existing boat ramp area and to backfill behind the proposed sheet pile wall. Land-based equipment would be used to mechanically excavate approximately 1,750 cubic yards of material along the south boundary of the property to create the boat slips. The excavated material would be placed within the project site and used as fill on the upland lots. The site would be ringed with a continuous silt fence to minimize runoff from the project site. The dredged area would have a depth of -4 feet MHT at the bulkhead and -7 feet MHT at the end of the boat slips. Twelve of the slips would be 30 feet long and 12 feet wide, while the thirteenth would be 30 feet long and 15 feet wide. The concrete pilings for the boat slip walkways would be driven in by equipment mounted on barges. A 3-foot-wide by 30-foot-long walkway would be constructed between each slip. A 6-foot-wide walkway would be constructed along the back of the proposed boat slips with two 8-foot-wide sections, one 50 feet in length and the other 60 feet in length, constructed in the areas where there will not be any boat slips. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 12 sheets.

**NOTES:** This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Since permit assessment is a continuing process, this preliminary determination of EIS requirement will be changed if data or information brought forth in the coordination process is of a significant nature.

Our evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

**OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS:** Texas Coastal Zone consistency certification is required. The applicant has stated that the project is consistent with the Texas Coastal Management Program goals and policies and will be conducted in a manner consistent with said Program.

**STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** This project incorporates the requirements necessary to comply with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Tier I project criteria. Tier I projects are those which result in a direct impact of three acres or less of waters of the state or 1500 linear feet of streams (or a combination of the two is below the threshold) for which the applicant has incorporated best management practices and other provisions designed to safeguard water quality. The Corps has received a completed checklist and signed statement fulfilling Tier I criteria for the project. Accordingly, a request for 401 certification is not necessary and there will be no additional TCEQ review.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES:** The staff archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties:

The permit area has been so extensively modified that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property, even if present within the affected area.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Preliminary indications are that no known threatened and/or endangered species or their critical habitat will be affected by the proposed work.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on Essential Fish Habitat or Federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FACTORS:** This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-330, the Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, and other pertinent laws, regulations and executive orders. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered: among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:** The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts upon which a decision by the Corps of Engineers may be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Prior to the close of the comment period any person may make a written request for a public hearing setting forth the particular reasons for the request. The District Engineer will determine whether the issues are substantial and should be considered in the permit decision. If a public hearing is warranted, all known interested persons will be notified of the time, date, and location.

**CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:** All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before **5 January 2004**. Extensions of the comment period may be granted for valid reasons provided a written request is received by the limiting date. **If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections.** Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to:

Marie C. Pattillo  
Regulatory Branch, CESWG-PE-RCC  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
5151 Flynn Parkway, Suite 306  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411-4318  
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DISTRICT ENGINEER  
GALVESTON DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS